

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

### Listing of Claims

1. (Original) Digital radio communications apparatus comprising: a base unit; a local handset communicable with said base unit; and a distant handset communicable with said base unit,

wherein said local handset comprises: a radio section for performing radio communications; a base unit communications controller for performing radio communications with said base unit; a direct inter-handset communications controller for performing direct radio communications between handsets; a direct inter-handset communications transition controller for making control to establish direct inter-handset communications while maintaining communications with a base unit as well as transmitting control channels for direct inter-handset communications in vacant slots in the receiving time zones for communications with said base unit; and a basic controller for controlling the components of the local handset; and said

distant handset comprises: a radio section for performing radio communications; a base unit communications controller for performing radio communications with said base unit; a direct

inter-handset communications controller for performing direct radio communications between handsets; a direct inter-handset communications transition controller for making control to establish direct inter-handset communications while maintaining communications with said base unit as well as scanning control channels for direct inter-handset communications in the time zones other than the slots occupied by communications with said base unit; and a basic controller for controlling the components of the distant handset.

2. (Original) The digital radio communications apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said direct inter-handset communications transition controller makes control to establish direct inter-handset communications while maintaining communications with said base unit and scans control channels for direct inter-handset communications in the time zones other than the slots occupied by communications with said base unit as well as determines whether to release or maintain communications with said base unit depending on the success or failure of establishment of direct inter-handset communications.

3. (Original) Digital radio communications apparatus comprising: a base unit; and a handset communicable with said

base unit, wherein said handset comprises: a radio section for performing radio communications; a base unit communications controller for performing radio communications with said base unit; a direct inter-handset communications controller for performing direct radio communications between handsets; a direct inter-handset communications transition controller for making control to establish direct inter-handset communications while maintaining communications with said base unit as well as determines whether to release or maintain communications with said base unit depending on the success or failure of establishment of direct inter-handset communications; and a basic controller for controlling the components of the handset, and said direct inter-handset communications transition controller releases radio communications with said base unit in case direct inter-handset communications has been successfully established and maintains communications via said base unit in case direct inter-handset communications cannot be established.

4. (Original) The digital radio communications apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said direct inter-handset communications transition controller makes control to establish direct inter-handset communications while maintaining communications with said base unit as well as transmits control

channels for direct inter-handset communications in vacant slots in the receiving time zones for communications with said base unit.

5. (Original) Digital radio communications apparatus comprising: a base unit; a local handset communicable with said base unit; and a distant handset communicable with said base unit,

wherein said base unit comprises: a radio section for performing radio communications; and a controller for controlling the components as well as communicating to the local handset the channels used by the distant handset as channels used by said distant handset and said base unit communicated from said distant handset, and

said local handset comprises: a radio section for performing radio communications; a base unit communications controller for performing radio communications with said base unit; a direct inter-handset communications controller for performing direct radio communications between handsets; a direct inter-handset communications transition controller for making control to establish direct inter-handset communications while maintaining communications with said base unit, determining whether to release or maintain communications with said base unit depending

on the success or failure of establishment of direct inter-handset communications, requesting said base unit to communicate the channels used by said distant handset, and checking whether the channels transmitted from said distant handset to said base unit can be received in the channels used by said distant handset at a transition to direct inter-handset communications; and a basic controller for controlling the components of the local handset.

6. (Original) Digital radio communications apparatus comprising: a base unit; a local handset communicable with said base unit; and a distant handset communicable with said base unit,

wherein said base unit comprises: a radio section for performing radio communications; and a controller for controlling the components as well as communicating to the local handset the channels used by the distant handset as channels used by said distant handset and said base unit communicated from said distant handset, and

said local handset comprises: a radio section for performing radio communications; a base unit communications controller for performing radio communications with said base unit; a direct inter-handset communications controller for performing direct

radio communications between handsets; a direct inter-handset communications transition controller for making control to establish direct inter-handset communications while maintaining communications with said base unit, determining whether to release or maintain communications with said base unit depending on the success or failure of establishment of direct inter-handset communications, and communicating the channels used by said local handset requested; and a basic controller for controlling the components of the local handset, and

said distant handset comprises: a radio section for performing radio communications; a base unit communications controller for performing radio communications with said base unit; a direct inter-handset communications controller for performing direct radio communications between handsets; a direct inter-handset communications transition controller for making control to establish direct inter-handset communications while maintaining communications with said base unit, determining whether to release or maintain communications with said base unit depending on the success or failure of establishment of direct inter-handset communications, and checking whether the channels transmitted from the distant handset to the base unit can be received at a transition to direct inter-handset communications;

and a basic controller for controlling the components of the distant handset.

7. (Currently Amended) Digital radio communications apparatus comprising: a base unit and handsets communicable with said base unit,

wherein said handset comprises: a radio section for performing radio communications; a base unit communications controller for performing radio communications with said base unit; a direct inter-handset communications controller for performing direct radio communications between handsets; a direct inter-handset communications transition controller for making control to establish direct inter-handset communications while maintaining communications with said base unit, determining whether to release or maintain communications with said base unit depending on the success or failure of establishment of direct inter-handset communications, requesting said base unit to communicate the channels used by a distant handset and said base unit, and checking whether the channels transmitted from the distant handset to said base unit can be received in said requested channels used; and a basic controller 286 for controlling the components of the handset,

said base unit comprises: a radio section for performing radio communications; and a controller for controlling the components of said base unit as well as communicating the channels used for communications with a distant handset in response to an inquiry from said local handset, and

said direct inter-handset communications transition controller checks whether the channels transmitted from the distant handset to said base unit can be received at a transition to direct inter-handset communications.

8-12. (Canceled).